

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OCEAN DUMPING
REPORT FOR
CALENDAR YEAR
1998
NON-DREDGED MATERIAL

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Under the authority of the International Maritime Organization, the United States and all other contracting nations to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter are required to submit an annual report for all ocean dumping operations. Following is the report for those categories of non-dredged material that were ocean dumped in CY 1998.

a) Emergency permit

To the National Science Foundation, for disposal of pier made of ice from their base at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. This ice pier, which was used to unload cargo and material for the three United States bases in Antarctica, was seven years old, seriously deteriorating, and its continuing use had become a hazard to human life and safety. The ice pier was towed out to McMurdo Sound by a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker, and was left to drift and break up amidst the ice pack.

b) Emergency provisions of the general ocean dumping permit for vessels

For the disposal of the bow section of the M.V. *New Carissa*, which ran aground off the coast of Oregon, U.S.A., as a result of heavy weather. The vessel was carrying four hundred thousand gallons of fuel oil, and as a result of the grounding spilled about 50,000-70,000 gallons of oil. The authorities first tried to pull the vessel off the beach with tugboats, but this effort was unsuccessful. They then tried to burn the oil in the vessel by placing incendiary devices on board, but this only succeeded in splitting the vessel in two. The second attempt to burn the oil on the forward half of the ship was partially successful; approximately half of the remaining oil in the ship was consumed in the resulting explosion and fire. At that point, the authorities determined that the bow section should be towed off the beach and sunk at sea; they were concerned about the serious threat posed to the coastal environmental resources by any further spillage of the

oil on board and the predictions of coming adverse weather conditions.

The larger forward section of the vessel was then taken under tow to a point approximately 280 miles west of the Oregon coast, where the remains were sunk by naval gunfire in an estimated 10,000 feet of water. Approximately 100,000 to 130,000 gallons of oil remained on board at the time of the sinking. At that depth, the fuel oil on board congeals due to the cold temperature of the water, and further environmental damage would not be expected from the oil. The stern section of the vessel, which contained no additional quantities of oil, was left on the beach; discussions to remove that portion of the ship are continuing.

c) Sinking of U.S. Navy vessels for target practice

There were five naval vessels sunk under a general permit for target practice in CY 1998; the following list details the name and number of the vessel, its tonnage, the date the sinking occurred, its approximate location at the time of sinking, and the estimated depth of water in which the vessel lies.

<u>Vessel/Hull number</u>	<u>Tonnage</u>	<u>Date sunk</u>	<u>Approx. location</u>	<u>Est. depth (ft)</u>
Hull (DD 945)	2,850	7 Apr 98	144 nm SW of Los Angeles, CA	12,600
Badger (FF 1071)	3,250	22 July 98	65 nm NW of Kauai, HI	17,100
Somers (DDG 34)	3,150	22 July 98	72 nm NW of Kauai, HI	16,800
Turner (CG 20)	5,700	9 Aug 98	120 nm N of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.	17,700
Belknap (CG 26)	6,300	24 Sept 98	196 nm ESE of Norfolk, VA	12,300

d) Disposal of human remains

A general permit exists for disposal of human remains. This general permit allows anyone to dispose of human remains without requesting a specific permit, as long as the requirements of the general permit are met. Disposal of non-cremated remains require that the body must be dumped at least three nautical miles from land, and in no less than 600 feet of water; measures must be taken to ensure that the remains sink to the bottom rapidly and permanently. Cremated remains may be disposed at sea, if the disposal is at least three miles from land. The Agency generally does not monitor such disposal

operations very closely, and it would be difficult to specify precise numbers of such disposal events.

e) Fish waste disposal

In 1998 EPA issued 2 ocean dumping permits to canneries in American Samoa. The permits are effective for 3 years. The permittees, Star Kist and VC S Samoa, are limited to a daily maximum combined waste stream volume of 400,000 gallons/day. They dump at a site 5.45 nautical miles from land; the center coordinates are: 14° 24.00' S, 170° 38.20' W, with a radius of 1.5 nautical miles. Depth of the water at that site is about 9000 feet.